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OLD HICKORY POWDER PLANT

Cost Ninety Million Dollars and Sold for Less Than Four Millions

During the war people of this section as well as all over this and adjoining states heard much about the powder plant near Nashville known as "Old Hickory." Well, "thereby hangs a tail."

Old Hickory cost the government ninety million dollars to build. It never produced a pound of powder for use in the war and it is well understood that the du Ponts, who built it, got a handsome rake-off, just how much none but those on the inside will ever know. After the armistice was signed the plant was closed down and a guard was left there to look after the property. A large amount of platinum was stored there that belonged to the government. It is stated that the amount was over half a million dollars. The officer in charge of the force which was supposed to be watching carefully that property of Uncle Sam stole more than \$100,000 worth of the platinum, but he was caught and most of it recovered.

A little later that plant that cost Uncle Sam ninety million dollars was sold to the Nashville Industrial Corporation for \$3,505,000, of which amount only \$300,000 was paid in cash and the remainder was secured by ten-year, 5-percent notes. So your Uncle Sam stood to lose about \$6 million dollars on that deal.

This deal, in common with many other sales of a similar kind is regarded as being so ridiculously low as to be easily voided because of the smallness of the compensation, and suit may be brought later to recover.

But the most ridiculous, amusing and at the same time disgusting feature of the whole matter is, that the man who negotiated the sale with the government was later decorated with the distinguished service medal for his services in disposing of army property "at exceptionally advantageous prices." He certainly must have labored under a great strain—if he had a conscience.

BIG INDEMNITY.

The indemnity determined upon from Germany to the allies has been fixed at 226 billion gold marks, which is about 56 and one-half billion dollars. Besides that there is to be a 12 per cent export duty which goes to the allies. At this time the German mark is worth only about five or six cents, but since the terms state that the amount is to be paid in gold marks it would seem that the standard would be the pre-war value or the amount as above.

The attitude of the German press on the decision is very bitter and numbers of the leading papers claim that the finding must not be taken seriously for it is not intended to stick.

Premier Lloyd George says that the Germans will finally accept the findings regardless of their present bitter attitude.

DOG LAW SEEMS SAFE

The effort to repeal the dog law seems destined to prove a failure. From all parts of the state come protests—except possibly West Tennessee where no sheep are raised—against the repeal of the law.

People who wish to raise sheep and produce something worth while for themselves and the state do not favor the idea of the shiftless and thriftless negro or white man keeping several hounds to live off the sheep of the state. They have sent in their protests in no uncertain manner and there appears now no chance for the repeal act to receive anything but a death blow when the voting time comes.

Switzerland bars all nations from naturalization.

RAILWAY WAGE REDUCTION

Wages of Employees Must Be Cut Or Roads Will Go Broke.

The Association of Railroad Executives has been in session for some days in Chicago looking to a reduction of wages of employees.

The operators claim that a wage reduction is imperative if the roads continue to operate within their incomes. It is expected that a conference will be held between the operators and the employees looking to some satisfactory solution of the difficulty. It seems that the employees realize that the condition is serious and they will probably listen to reasonable propositions looking to wage reductions.

It is estimated that the general fall in prices has increased the purchasing power of the dollar from 15 to 20 per cent and for that reason the employees can well afford a reduction. The operators claim that the high freight rates are slowing up shipments to such an extent as to seriously affect the income of the roads, and some of the operators are talking of reductions in both wages and rates as a means of increasing the revenue of the roads. Such a course would materially aid the roads as both would strengthen the ability of the roads to buy new equipment, which is badly needed by practically every road in the United States.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

The Art Circle Library has recently purchased several books by the best popular authors that will prove of marked interest to those who patronize the library. There have also been received several books for the younger folks.

The library is open each Tuesday and Saturday, from 2 to 4 p. m. Any person wishing to secure books should remember the day and hour and be there promptly.

Following are the names of the new books with the names of the authors: The Thread of Flame, Basil King. Erskine Dale, Pioneer, John Fox, Jr. The Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton.

A World to Mend, Margaret Sherwood.

Transplanted, Gertrude Atherton. Youth Challenges, Clarence B. Keland.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and Marc Nostrum, both by V. Blasco Ibanez.

Returned Empty, Florence Barclay. Harriet and the Piper, David Grayson.

The Friendly Road, David Grayson.

The Enchanted Barn, Grace Lutz.

Joy in the Morning, Mary Shipman Andrews.

The Man of the Forest, Zane Grey.

BERGER WINS SUIT.

Victor Berger, who twice won his seat as congressman from Milwaukee after he had been sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, for interfering with the draft during the war, has won his suit before the United States Supreme Court on the grounds that Judge K. M. Landis should not have tried the case after his eligibility was attacked.

Berger was denied a seat in the lower house of Congress. The third time he offered for election he was defeated. He is the publisher of the Milwaukee Leader, a socialist paper. Four of Berger's associates were tried and convicted at the same time.

The finding of the court means a reversal of the first decision and a trial before some other judge.

DATE OF RECESS.

The legislature has set the date for the recess from February 11 to March 7.

OPEN OFFICES IN KNOXVILLE

Findlay Company Will Market Lumber and Coal in Knoxville

The J. H. Findlay Lumber Company has opened offices in Knoxville to handle the lumber and coal that will be taken from their 4,000-acre tract south-east of town.

J. H. Findlay was in Knoxville last week and arranged for the purchase of a business site for handling the output of his holdings in this county and points in Mississippi. It is the purpose of the company, which will be known as the Findlay Lumber and Coal Company, to handle its products in a wholesale and retail way.

The incorporators of the new company are W. M. Van Harlinger, H. T. Spencer, H. G. McMillin and S. E. N. Moore. The capital stock will be \$75,000.

DIVINE HEALING

Editor Chronicle:—

All want to know the truth about my boy Earl Read being cured last September by the power of God.

For nearly two years he had been hurting with sharp, shifting, acute pains; as time went on he gradually grew worse, until the pains became constant, both day and night.

A number of good doctors tried their hands; the best in the Rockwood hospital and one in Nashville without the least help in stopping the pains.

So we were discouraged, but we knew that if men could not cure the Lord could, if he would when asked in humility and faith according to gospel.

"Is any sick among you, let him call for the Elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him." James 5: 14.

In the last chapter of Mark Christ told his disciples to go into all the world and preach to every creature, and he that believeth not shall be damned. "And these signs shall follow them that believe.... They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." "In all the world" means in Tennessee as well as in Palestine and "to every creature" means us as well as others to whom the Lord promised the blessings.

So last Fall when Elder T. C. Kelly, of Independence, Missouri, came to Crossville to preach, without pay, the churches, court house and picture hall seemed to be closed against him, and the bad weather forbid outside preaching; so the people lost something more valuable than money by not hearing that humble servant of God.

But while here we asked him to administer to Earl, our sick boy, according to gospel and he did so, curing the boy immediately, and thus all honor, power and glory is due the Lord, the greatest of all physicians and the giver of all good gifts.

Brother Kelley is an Elder in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and has been out preaching without salary for 29 years. No charge is made for administering to the sick, nor marrying people. But if very young couples come to him to be married to which parents might object, he would refuse and giving them good advice, notifying their parents like all honest men or Christians would do; as they wish others to treat their children.

Yours for gospel and truth
Wm. E. Read.

CIGARET LAW REPEALED

The legislature has repealed the cigarette law and it is the claim now that a stringent law forbidding sale to minors and one placing a heavy tax on cigarettes will be passed.

WHEAT FARMERS ON JOB

The Acreage Reduced Less Than 3% From Last Year.

A Not a few people have been curious about what would become of the country in case the farmers "got mad enough" about the price of wheat, which they declare is at present below the cost of production. The answer is supplied by the report just issued of the area sown this fall to winter wheat.

The farmers have been thoroughly incensed by the decline in prices of agricultural products but they have not been deterred from looking forward hopefully to better things. They have planted in winter wheat 40,605,000 acres, which is less than three per cent under the acreage thus sown last year.

On Dec. 1 the condition of the crop was 87.9 per cent of normal, which is considerably better than last year at the corresponding time and but one-half of one per cent under the ten-year average.

This affords great satisfaction to the American people, for whom the wheat will provide food. We imagine that it is even more satisfactory to the farmers. They have done the business-like thing. What else could they do? Producing foodstuffs is their business. If a crop fails they do not let the fact deter them from planting another.

Though this year's crop is unprofitable that is no reason for not producing one next year. Temporary losses usually spur the business man to greater efforts. So it is with the farmers.

With all their grumbling, and we sympathize with them in the unhappy conditions prevailing in the market, they are good sports and good business men. We will all have bread and we hope the farmers will secure such a good profit next year that they will be able to laugh at the troubles of 1920.—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

NEW TAX LAW

Does Not Repeal the Roberts Law But Orders New Assessment

The present legislature has passed a law that will require real estate to be assessed again this year.

It has been the custom under the law for real estate to be assessed once in two years. That work was done last year, but the legislature felt that because of the fall in prices the assessment should be done this year to bring land values more nearly to their proper level. The new law does not repeal the Roberts Tax Law but does leave the gap down for much lower valuations being established because of the atmosphere and general understanding under which the recent law was enacted.

DEBS MUST STAY IN PRISON.

President Wilson has refused to release Eugene V. Debs, who is now serving a sentence of 10 years in the Federal Prison at Atlanta, Ga. The showing made by Attorney-General Palmer did not appeal to the president as sufficient reason for his release.

PRINTER WANTED

The Chronicle is needing a printer and Linotype operator. It means a steady job for the right man and the wages will be in accordance with what he can do. If you have never operated a Linotype nor done any work in a print shop, but have a high school education you will be considered for the place; either man or woman. Apply at this office.

The native population of Hawaii has decreased nearly 3,000 in the past ten years. It is expected to finally become extinct as they seem unable to stand the ways of modern civilization.

ABOUT SCHOOL BUILDING

Some Interesting Points About Its Size and Location.

Since the public has decided by the large majority of five to one that they favor spending \$30,000 for a public school building, that necessarily brings to mind some other important things touching this improvement for our town.

Naturally the first question that would arise is: Where should it be located? There seems to be some diversity of opinion on that as was to be expected. Some persons say to build it west of the court house on the ground near the residence of Mrs. Frances Dickson. The reasons they give are that it is a central point and can be easily reached by all the people. If any other reasons are advanced they have not come to our knowledge.

Those opposed to the location say: While the site is level it is low and will be very muddy. That it is so far from Main Street, that it will not be readily seen by people passing through our town and that we should locate it so as to be a standing advertisement of our town as well as to be centrally located.

Others favor the site now occupied by the Congregational church and claim that the property can be bought for a reasonable sum, the site is high and free from mud and water, has a good walk to it now from one direction and to approach it from the other direction is easy and not low and wet as in the case of the other site mentioned. It would naturally face the Memphis-to-Bristol Highway and would be in such a noticeable location that it would always be a standing advertisement of great value to our town. It would adjoin the present grounds of the city school and would be an excellent site for a playground.

Size of Auditorium.

The building shown as a sample of what our town could secure for \$20,000 contained an auditorium with a seating capacity of only 400. We have heard many persons speak of that feature and in every instance they expressed a strong desire for an auditorium that would seat at least 1,000 people. When reminded that such an enlargement would mean more cost they invariably expressed the feeling that the conditions could be met by another bond issue or by private subscription, but by all means have the large auditorium. Some seemed willing to put up with an auditorium that will seat 800, but all preferred the larger size.

We have not the slightest doubt but that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen would be glad to have the people make their wishes known on both the location and the size of the auditorium. We shall be glad to receive short letters relative to these two points and will publish same. If our people do not take the trouble to make known their wishes, with the reasons on which they base them, our city fathers should not be blamed should the location of the building and the size of the auditorium prove unsatisfactory. Full, free and pleasant discussion of the subject is the surest way to reach what is best and most desired by the majority of our people. Let your views be known.

NORMA TALMADGE AGAIN AT THE MECCA SATURDAY

Saturday, February 4 Norma Talmadge will appear again at the Mecca in one of her powerful photoplays. The name of it is "Panthea" and believe us it's a hummer. If you do not want to get so entranced that you'll forget where you are don't come to see "Panthea." But if you like a good movie; one that is thrilling without being brutal; one that is uplifting without being insipid, see "Panthea" at the Mecca Saturday.